Payment procedure in NREGS

2719. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the delay in payment of wage due to complicated procedure to the workers engaged on National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(NREGS) works;

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken for simplification of this procedure; and

(c) the time limit for implementation of simplified procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Cases of delay in payment of wages to NREGA workers have been brought to the notice of Ministry of Rural Development. The Ministry also monitors the progress of NREGA. As a result of this, procedural gaps including those relating to wage disbursement have come to the notice of the Ministry.

(b) With a view to ensure transparency and timely payment of wages to NREGA workers, wage payment through savings accounts of NREGA worker's in Banks/Post offices has been made mandatory.

(c) Disbursement of wages through accounts in banks/post offices is linked with the availability of banks/postal network in an area. It is, therefore, not possible to fix a time for making entire wage payment through Banks/Post Offices.

Extension of NREGS in urban area

2720. SHRI B. S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to extend the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(NREGS) to urban areas since 25.70 per cent of the urban population is poor;

(b) if so, the time frame for the extension of this programme to urban areas and the number of estimated population to be benefited under this programme; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) No, Sir. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act applies only to rural areas of the country. Under the Act, adult members of a registered rural household may demand employment for a maximum of 100 days per household in a financial year for doing unskilled manual work irrespective of their status.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Hiring unauthorized persons for teaching

2721. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that many teachers in the country particularly in remote and rural areas, have hired people to teach their students in place of them on daily wages basis;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents;

(c) whether such practice may not spoil Government's planning to provide quality education to all upto 8th standard, and

(d) the corrective steps taken by Government to check such practice of hiring people to teach students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The teachers at school level are recruited as per the norms and policies of the respective State Governments. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan,(SSA) teachers are sanctioned for new schools and wherever, there is adverse Pupil Teacher Ratio. Till 31st March, 2009, 9.86 lakh teachers have been recruited by the. State Governments, as per their norms and policies, salaries for such teachers are provided under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. In 2009-10, Rs. 9859 crores have been sanctioned for teacher salary under SSA.

Investigation for the purchase of ships

†2722. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether investigation has been made into the losses made on account of delay in sanction for the purchase of six large Range-1 Product Faster ships by the Shipping Corporation of India;

(b) whether responsibility has been fixed after inquiring the concerned officers; and

(c) the details of the safeguards being taken to prevent its recurrence in future?

THE MIINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) to (c) The delay in sanctioning of the proposal which was processed under the PIB, CCEA Route was due to compliance of procedural requirement. Since, the delay was not intentional, no investigations were carried out. However, the observations made by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India in the audit para with regard to delay in acquisition of these vessels was duly replied by the Ministry.

The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has been conferred "Navratna" status on Ist August, 2008, Accordingly, the SCI Board is now empowered to take investment decisions at its own level and SCI's ship acquisition proposals are no longer required to be processed through the PIB, CCEA route thus avoiding any delays in the future.

Registration of fishing vessels

2723. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:
Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.